



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

August 14, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 13-62

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES  
ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES  
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE  
(AFDC-FC) CALIFORNIA NECESSITIES INDEX (CNI) INCREASES  
AND OTHER RATE INCREASES

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 1013, CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2012;  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) SECTIONS 11364,  
11387, 11453, 11460, 11461, 11462, 11463, 11464, 18254, 8358.3;  
ACL NO. 11-63; ACL NO. 11-63E; ACL NO. 11-54, ACL NO. 12-43

The purpose of this ACL is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 2.65 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14. The CNI increase is applicable to out of home placements and the AFDC-FC program. The California Department of Social Services will be issuing an ACL each year adjusting the rates to reflect changes in the CNI.

Non-federal and federal Kinship Guardianships and State AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to the Foster Family Home (FFH) basic rate for guardianships established *prior* to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A below:

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

**Table A**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Rate 7/1/13- 6/30/14	\$481	\$522	\$559	\$617	\$675

Effective July 1, 2013, a 1.33 percent CNI increase applies *only* to the 12-20 age categories of the Orange County grandfathered FFH basic rate for guardianships established *prior* to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A-1 below:

**Table A-1**

Orange County

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Rate 7/1/13- 6/30/14	\$481	\$522	\$559	\$684	\$684

Foster Family Homes

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to the FFH basic rate for a kinship guardianship and a non-related legal guardianship established *on or after* May 1, 2011 and a licensed or approved FFH, approved home of a relative, the approved home of a non-relative extended family member, and a Title IV-E Tribal licensed or approved home and is reflected in Table B below:

**Table B**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Rate 7/1/13- 6/30/14	\$657	\$711	\$748	\$783	*\$820

\*All non-minor dependents (NMDs) in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) will receive the basic foster care rate identified in Table B for the 15-20 age category. The Specialized Care Increment cannot be paid to NMDs in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP.

Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table C below:

**Table C**

Age	FY 2013/14
Birth up to 3 years	\$ 967
*3 years and older	\$2,162

\*Under three years of age if eligible per W&IC section 11464.

Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to the FFA basic rate only and does not change the remaining components of the FFA treatment program rate as outlined in Manual of Policies and Procedures section 11-403. As required by regulation, a minimum of the basic rate and the child increment are to be passed on to the FFA certified home for each child each month. The FY 2013-14 FFA rates are reflected in Tables D and E below:

**Table D** FFA Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Basic Rate	\$657	\$711	\$748	\$783	\$820
Child Increment	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
<b>Minimum Total to FFA Certified Home</b>	<b>\$846</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$937</b>	<b>\$972</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>
Social Work	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296
Administration	\$572	\$593	\$611	\$643	\$672
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>\$1,714</b>	<b>\$1,789</b>	<b>\$1,844</b>	<b>\$1,911</b>	<b>\$1,977</b>

**Table E** FFA Non-Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Basic Rate	\$657	\$711	\$748	\$783	\$820

Information regarding FFAs with grandfathered rates above the new standard rates schedule will be provided at a future date.

Intensive Treatment Foster Care/Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (ITFC/MTFC)

The SB 1013 authorized an interim increase in the ITFC/MTFC rates, changed the service hours and rate levels and increased the minimum amount paid to the certified foster parent. The interim rate increase will be in effect for three fiscal years beginning

on July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 by an amount equal to the CNI computed pursuant to W&IC section 11453. Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 CNI is calculated based *only* on the caregiver portion of the ITFC/MTFC rate and is reflected in Table F below:

**Table F**

Service and Rate Level	In-Home Support Counselor Hours per month	Standard Rate	Minimum reimbursement to certified home
Level I	81-114 hours	\$5,637	\$2,156
Level II	47- 80 hours	\$4,854	\$2,156
Level III	Less than 47 hours	\$4,090	\$2,156

Additionally, children placed at Service and Rate Level III must receive behavior de-escalation and other support services on a flexible as-needed basis from an in-home support counselor. The FFA must provide one full-time support counselor for every 20 children placed at Level III. Children may not be placed at a Rate Level I or II for more than six months unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child by the child's county interagency review team or the county placing agency, FFA and the child's certified foster parents. Extensions may be granted in six month increments.

**Group Homes (GHs)**

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table G below:

**Table G**

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,282
2	60-89	\$2,851
3	90-119	\$3,419
4	120-149	\$3,986
5	150-179	\$4,550
6	180-209	\$5,121
7	210-239	\$5,689
8	240-269	\$6,259
9	270-299	\$6,825
10	300-329	\$7,394
11	330-359	\$7,959
12	360-389	\$8,529
13	390-419	\$9,104
14	420 & Up	\$9,669

Wraparound

Effective July 1, 2013, the 2.65 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rates and is reflected in Table H below:

**Table H**

RCL	Non-Federal Child	Federally Eligible Child
10/11	\$7,677	\$3,838
13	\$9,104	\$4,553

Out-of-State Group Homes

For California group home (GH) placements made out of state, the rate to be paid is the rate established by the rate-setting authority of the other state. The county cannot claim federal financial participation for any rate amount exceeding the current FY's RCL 14 or exceeding the rate determined by the rate-setting authority of the state in which the facility is located. The county is responsible for determining if any non-allowable costs are included in the rate and ensuring that only allowable costs are claimed for Federal Title IV-E AFDC-FC reimbursement. Allowable costs are defined as food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, and liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation and reasonable travel to the child's school of origin. For GHs placements, allowable costs also include reasonable administration.

Specialized Care Increment (SCI)

In accordance with W&IC section 11461(e)(4)(C)(i), the SCI will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in FY 2013-14. However, a county may *choose* to apply a CNI to its specialized care increment. Consistent with the realignment of funding there will be no state share of cost for any adjustment.

Infant Supplement

The infant supplement rates are to remain at the levels approved effective January 1, 2008. If applicable, youth who are in receipt of Kinship-Guardianship Assistance Payment benefits are also entitled to receive the infant supplement. The Infant Supplement rate is reflected in Table I below:

**Table I**

· Infant Supplement  
Effective January 1, 2008

Placement Type	Group Home	FFH/FFA
Rate	\$890	\$411

**Inquiries**

Any questions regarding the rates information in this ACL can be directed to the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA